

Fiction and Nonfiction JF/YA Books with Strong Female Characters
(if you need additional titles the Amelia Bloomer Project has a good website to consult:
www.ameliabloomer.wordpress.com)

- Alcott, Louisa May.** *Little Women*, 1868. Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in nineteenth-century New England. **JF**
- Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Fever 1793*, 2000. In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. **YA**
- Austen, Jane.** *Pride and Prejudice*, 1813. Human foibles and early nineteenth-century manners are satirized in this romantic tale of English country family life as Elizabeth Bennet and her four sisters are encouraged to marry well in order to keep the Bennet estate in their family. **Fic**
- Avi.** *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, 1991. Thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself the lone passenger on a long sea voyage with a cruel captain and a mutinous crew. What begins as an eagerly anticipated ocean crossing turns into a harrowing journey, where Charlotte gains a villainous enemy . . . and is put on trial for murder. **YA**
- Bartels, Peggelene and Eleanor Herman.** *An American Secretary, Her Royal Destiny, and the Inspiring Story of How She Changed an African Village*, 2012. A phone call awakens Peggelene Bartels in the middle of the night with news that she's been chosen the next king of her home village Otuam, Ghana. She overcomes corruption and sexism to bring progress to the village. **JB Bartels**
- Bingham, Kelly.** *Shark Girl*, 2007. After a shark attack causes the amputation of her right arm, fifteen-year-old Jane, an aspiring artist, struggles to come to terms with her loss and the changes it imposes on her day-to-day life and her plans for the future. **YA**
- Black, Holly.** *Tithe*, 2002. Sixteen-year-old Kaye, who has been visited by faeries since childhood, discovers that she herself is a magical faerie creature with a special destiny. **YA**
- Brashares, Ann.** *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, 2001. Four best girlfriends spend the biggest summer of their lives enchanted by a magical pair of pants. **YA**
- Bray, Libba.** *Beauty Queens*, 2011. What happens when the Miss Teen Dream contestants are stranded on a desert island? They subvert their beauty queen skills to survive and thwart an evil corporate plot. **YA**
- Bray, Libba.** *A Great and Terrible Beauty*, 2003. After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world. **YA**
- Brink, Carol Ryrie.** *Caddie Woodlawn*, 1935. Adventures of an eleven-year-old tomboy living in Wisconsin in 1864. **JF**
- Burnett, Frances Hodgson.** *The Secret Garden*, 1911. Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. **JF**

- Chandler, Pauline.** *Warrior Girl: A novel of Joan of Arc*, 2006. Although surrounded by treachery, Mariane, a young mute, battles alongside her cousin, Joan of Arc, for the liberation of France from the English. **YA**
- Chayil, Eishes.** *Hush* 2011. Young Gittel's close-knit ultra-Orthodox community seems comforting until she witnesses a horrific act of violence against her best friend Devory. Can she find the courage to speak up for her friend. More importantly, will her traditional community listen? **YA**
- Collins, Suzanne.** *The Hunger Games*, 2008. In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. **YA**
- Colman, Panny.** *Elizabeth Cody Stanton and Susan B. Anthony...*, 2011. In 1851, a serendipitous meeting of these two women began a friendship that altered the course of women's history. **J324.6**
- Cooney, Caroline.** *Goddess of Yesterday*, 2002. Taken from her home on an Aegan island as a six-year-old girl, Anaxandra calls on the protection of her goddess as she poses as two different princesses over the next six years, before ending up as a servant in the company of Helen and Paris as they make their way to Troy. **YA**
- Cushman, Karen.** *Catherine, Called Birdy*, 1994. The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. **JF**
- Dagg, Carole E.** *The Year We Were Famous*, 2011. In 1896, Clara and her suffragist mother accept a challenge to walk across the United States to win \$10,000 and save their family farm. Their endurance and fortitude change perceptions of women's abilities and fashion. **YA**
- Donnelly, Jennifer.** *Revolution*, 2010. While Andi struggles with the impact of her brother's death, she uncovers a surprising personal connection to history through Alex's French Revolution era diary. Both girls find liberation through the power of music. **YA**
- Fitzhugh, Louise.** *Harriet the Spy*, 1964. Eleven-year-old Harriet, who wants to be a writer, writes down everything she sees, but alienates her friends in the process. **JF**
- Fleming, Candace.** *Amelia Lost...*, 2011. This intriguing biography highlights feminist icon Amelia Earhart's contribution to aviation history. Readers will discover interesting details about this adventurous spirit's life and about the events surrounding her disappearance over the Pacific in 1937. **JB Fleming**
- Fletcher, Susan.** *Dragon's Milk*, 1989. Kaeldra, an outsider adopted by an Elythian family as a baby, possesses the power to understand dragons and uses this power to try to save her younger sister who needs dragon's milk to recover from an illness. **JF**
- French, Jackie.** *Rover*, 2007. Captured by Vikings, young Hekja is taken as a slave to Greenland by the sister of Erik the Red, and accompanied by no one from her homeland but her loyal dog, shares adventures with her new mistress, who is determined to make a name for herself as her father and brother have. **YA**

- George, Jean Craighead.** *Julie*, 1994. When Julie returns to her father's village, she struggles to find a way to save her beloved wolves in a changing Arctic world and she falls in love with a young Siberian man. **YA**
- Gevinson, Tavia (editor).** *Rooke Yearbook One*. 2012. A thoughtful and provocative collection of the year's best writing from the feminist online magazine, *Rookie*. **J305.235 Gevinson**
- Hannigan, Katherine.** *True (...Sort of)*, 2011. When Ferris arrives in town, Delly gets an unexpected "surpresent", RB uncovers a beautiful "hummin bin", and Brud Kinney learns to play basketball "like nothin' nobody's ever seen". This unlikely trio must navigate Ferris' sadness, silence, and wild nature to discover what they have to offer each other. **JF**
- Hill, Stuart.** *Cry of the Icemark*, 2005. When her father is killed, princess Thirrin Freer Strong-In-The-Arm Lindenshield becomes queen of Icemark and searches for a way to protect her people and their homeland from invaders from the Polypontian Empire. **YA**
- Hollihan, Kerrie Logan.** *Rightfully Ours: How women won the vote, 21 activities*, 2012. This history of the fight for women's suffrage depicts the plight of women in the early United States and describes the efforts of those who fought against oppression. **J324.6 Hollihan**
- Howe, James.** *Addie on the Inside*, 2011. Outspoken Addie struggles to define herself according to her own terms. She fights against bullying and oppression, and takes time to look inside herself to discover what it means to be a girl who's a little bit different. **YA**
- Lambert, Josephy.** *Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller*, 2012. Annie Sullivan overcomes personal obstacles and resistance from society to become Helen Keller's groundbreaking teacher in this beautiful graphic novel. **JB Sullivan**
- Landman, Tanya.** *I am Apache*. 2008. A young Apache woman, Siki seeks to avenge her brother's death by becoming an Apache warrior and learns a startling truth about her own identity. **YA**
- Leavitt, Martine.** *Keturah and Lord Death*, 2006. When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love. **YA**
- Ledbetter, Lilly with Lanier Scott Isom.** *Grace and Grit: My fight for equal pay and fairness at Goodyear and beyond*, 2012. Lilly Ledbetter shares her inspiring journey from underpaid, mistreated factory employee to Supreme Court plaintiff, nationally renowned speaker and namesake of the Fair Pay Restoration Act. **331.4 Ledbetter**
- Lee, Harper.** *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 1960. Scout's father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town during the 1930's. **YA**
- Lemmon, Gayle Tzemach.** *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, 2011. When the Taliban take control of Kabul, life for the city's people – especially the women – changes overnight. Enterprising and ingenious, Kamila finds a way for her family to survive and empowers other women to achieve economic independence. **958.1 Tze**
- L'Engle, Madeline.** *A Wrinkle in Time*, 1963. *A Wrinkle in Time*, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe. They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government. **YA**

- Lenski, Lois.** *Indian Captive: the Story of Mary Jemison*, 1941. A fictional retelling of the experiences of twelve-year-old Mary Jemison, who after being captured by a Shawnee war party during the French and Indian War, is rescued and subsequently adopted by two Seneca sisters with whom she ultimately chooses to stay. **JF**
- Levine, Gail Carson.** *Ella Enchanted*, 1997. At her birth, Ella of Frell was given a foolish fairy's gift—the "gift" of obedience. Ella must obey any order given to her, whether it's hopping on one foot for a day or chopping off her own head. But strong-willed Ella does not tamely accept her fate. She goes on a quest, determined to break the curse—and live happily ever after. **YA**
- Levine, Gail Carson.** *The Two Princesses of Bamarre*, 2001. With her adventurous sister, Meryl, suffering from the Grey death, meek and timid Princess Addie sets out to find a cure and encounters monsters and other dangers along the way. **JF**
- Levine, Kristin.** *The Lions of Little Rock*, 2012. In tumultuous era following the desegregation of schools in Little Rock, 12-year old Marlee Nisbett finds her voice, as well as the courage to do the right thing. **JF Levine**
- Lindgren, Astrid.** *Pippi Longstocking*, 1945. Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey--but without any parents--at the edge of a Swedish village. **JF**
- Lo, Malinda.** *Huntress*, 2011. The fate of the human realm rests in the hands of two seventeen-year-old girls, Kaede and Taisin. They embark on an unprecedented journey to seek the help of the Fairy Queen. **YA**
- Lowry, Lois.** *Number the Stars*, 1989. In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. **JF**
- MacColl, Michaela.** *Promise the Night*, 2011. Growing up in British East Africa, Beryl refuses to be a proper lady. She learns traditionally male skills after being adopted by a local tribe, becomes a successful horse trainer, and later a world-famous aviator. **JF**
- Macy, Sue.** *Wheels of Change: How women rode the bicycle to freedom...*, 2011. Through vintage cartoons, photographs, and songs, women pedal toward equal rights. **J796.6 Macy**
- Marr, Melissa.** *Wicked Lovely*, 2007. Seventeen-year-old Aislinn, who has the rare ability to see faeries, is drawn against her will into a centuries-old battle between the Summer King and Winter Queen, and the survival of her life, her love, and summer all hang in the balance. **YA**
- Marrin, Albert.** *Flesh and Blood So Cheap...*, 2011. 146 dead! Find out what led up to the Triangle Factory Fire, as well as meeting some truly dynamic women like Rose Schneiderman and Francis Perkins. **J974.7 Marrin**
- McKinley, Robin.** *The Hero and the Crown*, 1984. Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Luthe and the help of the blue sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witchwoman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North. **YA**
- Meyer, L.A.** *Bloody Jack*, 2002. Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates. **YA**

- Montgomery, L.M.** *Anne of Green Gables*, 1908. When eleven-year-old Anne Shirley arrives at Green Gables with nothing but a carpetbag and an overactive imagination, she knows that she has found her home. But first she must convince the Cuthberts to let her stay, even though she isn't the boy they'd hoped for. **YA**
- Moss, Marissa.** *Nurse, Soldier, Spy...*, 2011. Escaping an arranged marriage, Sarah Emma Edmonds, disguised as a man, supported herself by working as a Civil War nurse, soldier, and spy. Edmonds was the first and only woman recognized as a veteran of the Civil War. **J973.7 Moss**
- Murdock, Catherine Gilbert.** *Dairy Queen*, 2006. After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her. **YA**
- Napoli, Donna Jo.** *Hush: an Irish Princess' Tale*, 2007. Fifteen-year-old Melkorka, an Irish princess, is kidnapped by Russian slave traders and not only learns how to survive but to challenge some of the brutality of her captors, who are fascinated by her apparent muteness and the possibility that she is enchanted. **YA**
- Nix, Garth.** *Sabriel*, 1996. Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead. **YA**
- O'Connell, Caitlin and Donna M. Jackson.** *The Elephant Scientist*, 2011. Stunning photographs and exciting new information about elephant behavior document the groundbreaking work of the "mother of all elephants", courageous Caitlin O'Connell. **J599.67 O'Connell**
- O'Dell, Scott.** *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, 1960. Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life. **YA**
- Okorafor, Nnedi.** *Akata Witch*, 2011. Sunny seeks to discover herself and uncover her mystical connection to the mysterious Nigerian Leopard community. As her power grows, so does her ability to stand with her friends against an ancient and terrifying evil. **YA**
- Otto, Whitney.** *Eight Girls Taking Pictures*, 2012. Eight women photographers work to find their voices as independent artists against backdrops of war, social change, and romance. **Fic Otto**
- Pattou, Edith.** *East*, 2003. A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear who is the victim of a cruel enchantment. **YA**
- Pierce, Tamora.** *Wild Magic*, 1992. The mage Numair, the knight Alanna, and Queen Thayet enlist thirteen-year-old Daine's help to battle the dreadful immortal creatures that have recently begun to attack the kingdom of Tortall. **YA**
- Pierce, Tamora.** *Alanna: the first adventure*, 1983. Eleven-year-old Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, and learns many hard lessons along her path to high adventure. **YA**
- Pierce, Tamora.** *Mastiff*, 2011. In the course of her Hunt to recover a kidnapped prince, Beka Cooper challenges the belief systems of many in her world, and creates unexpected change that will rock the foundations of her society. **YA**

- Pratchett, Terry.** *I Shall Wear Midnight*, 2011. Tiffany Aching, a teenage witch, must defeat the Cunning man, a source of ancient evil to save her community. **YA**
- Pullman, Philip.** *The Golden Compass*, 1996. Accompanied by her shape-shifting daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North. **YA**
- Pullman, Philip.** *The Ruby in the Smoke: a Sally Lockhart mystery*, 1985. In nineteenth-century London, sixteen-year-old Sally Lockhart, a recent orphan, becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby. **YA**
- Rees, Celia.** *Sovay*, 2008. In 1794 England, the rich and beautiful Sovay, disguised as a highwayman, acquires papers that could lead to her father's arrest for treason, and soon her newly-awakened political consciousness leads her and a compatriot to France during the Revolution. **YA**
- Resau, Laura and Maria Virginia Farinango.** *Queen of Water*, 2011. At age seven, Virginia is taken away from her small Ecuadorean village to work for a middle-class-couple. She survives years of abuse, living on the hope that one day, she will achieve liberation. **YA**
- Rose, Caroline Starr.** *MayB: a novel*, 2012. Young May is sent to work at a neighboring homestead on the Kansas prairie. After a series of dramatic events, May is stranded and fights to survive the brutal winter. **JF**
- Roth, Veronica.** *Divergent*, 2011. In this brutal tale set in futuristic Chicago, teens are placed into factions based on their "talents". Tris chooses to leave the safety of her selfless Abnegation faction to join the Dauntless. Through willpower and strength, she transforms herself and determines her own future. **YA**
- Rubin, Susan Goldman.** *Wideness and Wonder: The life and art of Georgia O'Keeffe*, 2011. At a time when women had not made an impact on the art world, O'Keeffe was the first woman to have a solo exhibition at New York's Museum of Art. Her innovative life and work exemplify her determination and vision regarding the magic of art and existence. **JB O'Keeffe**
- Speare, Elizabeth George.** *Calico Captive*, 1957. An historical novel based on an actual narrative. In 1754, on the brink of the French and Indian War, young Miriam Willard and her older sister's family are captured in an Indian raid on Charleston, New Hampshire where they are held for ransom. **JF**
- Speare, Elizabeth George.** *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, 1958. A young woman brought up in Barbados comes to live with her uncle in Connecticut, and finds their Puritan way of life difficult after her unconventional upbringing. **JF**
- Springer, Nancy.** *The Case of the Missing Marquess*, 2006. Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother. **YA**
- Stout, Glenn.** *Good Sports: Yes, She Can!*, 2011. From Trude Ederly's landmark swim across the English Channel to Danica Patrick's win of an Indy Racing League series, this book tells the stories of pioneering women who broke down barriers to compete on equal ground. **J796.092 Stout**

- Vaughn, Carrie.** *Steel*, 2011. Jill, a champion fencer, travels back in time after finding the tip of an old rapier on a Caribbean beach. Befriended by pirate captain Margery Cooper, she learns about honor and displays courage and cunning in an attempt to return home. **YA**
- Wadsworth, Ginger.** *First Girl Scout: The Life of Juliette Gordon Low*, 2012. Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low spends her childhood summers enjoying the outdoors. As an adult, Daisy is determined to bring new opportunities to all girls. **JB Low**
- Wein, Elizabeth.** *Code Name Verity*, 2012. Maddie and Verity risk their lives fighting for the Allies during World War II. Their friendship gives the strength and courage to do what’s right in the gravest of circumstances. **YA**
- Westerfeld, Scott.** *Uglies*, 2005. Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all. **YA**
- Whitney, Daisy.** *The Mockingbirds*, 2011. Alex, as a student at Themis Academy, is sexually assaulted during a date with a popular boy. When Alex’s plight is ignored by the faculty, she fights to reclaim her self-esteem and her voice through the justice of the Mockingbirds, a secret student society dedicated to righting wrongs. **YA**
- Wiggin, Kate Douglas.** *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.*, 1903. Talkative, ten-year-old Rebecca goes to live with her spinster aunts, one harsh and demanding, one soft and sentimental, with whom she spends seven difficult but rewarding years growing up. **JF**
- Wrede, Patricia.** *Dealing with Dragons*, 1990. Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom. **YA**
- Yang, Dori Jones.** *Daughter of Xanadu*, 2011. Skilled in the manly arts of warfare, Emmajin earns a place in her grandfather the Great Kahn’s army. With experience and time, her goals transform from conquest to compassion. **YA**